Directive for RTI

2943. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's directive that Information Commission set up under RTI could take decisions on complaints and appeals from the public collectively and not individually has been seriously opposed by RTI activists;

(b) whether RTI activists strongly objected and launched an internet campaign to get it rescinded and have pointed out that directive further weaken institution of RTI and lead to piling up of complaints and appeals before the commission causing degeneration of the institution; and

(c) if so, to what extent Government has considered their views and by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Representations have been received against the advice given by the Government to the Central Information Commission that in absence of any provision in the Right to Information Act, 2005 regarding constitution of benches, the decisions on appeals and complaints should be taken by the Commission and not by its benches.

(c) The advice is in line with the provisions of the law.

Proposals from Karnataka

2944. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two proposals of the State Government of Karnataka for the sanctioning and release of funds under Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) of the Central Government on strengthening capacity building and awareness generation for effective implementation of RTI Act, 2005 are pending with the Central Government for approval and release of funds; and

(b) if so, the status of the proposals and by when they are likely to be cleared and funds released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Karnataka State Information Commission has sent a proposal for sanctioning of funds for IT enablement and propagation of RTI under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme. First instalments for both the components have already been released.

Tribal backlog

2945. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: